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# MANAGEMENT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

U. S. Department of Agriculture

A summary of significant events of  
interest to USDA management

Issue #65  
July 11, 1977

PRESIDENT'S REPORTING BURDEN REDUCTION PROGRAM.....The President has indicated his determination to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Executive Branch. As part of this improvement, a high priority has been placed on reducing the burden which reporting to the Federal Government places upon the American public.

Each department has been assigned a goal of 5% for reduction of required reporting to be achieved by September 30. USDA agencies have been requested to review reporting requirements placed upon the public and make a 5% reduction. To date, the Department has only attained a 4% reduction. While most agencies have made progress, others have shown no improvement and three agencies have actually shown an increase. Without complete cooperation by all agencies, USDA will fall short. This program deserves serious attention from all agency managers. (Contact: Don Barrowman, SRS, ext. 76201)

OMB CIRCULAR NO. A-76 REVIEW.....OMB's office of Federal Procurement Policy is undertaking a complete review of all aspects of A-76 and the methods for its implementation. According to OMB Deputy Director McIntyre, this review will "ensure that the policy and its application are predictable, consistent, fair and equitable." A-76 will remain operational until changes from the review are announced. Comments on A-76 and the Transmittal Memorandum No. 3, dated June 13, 1977, should be directed to Tom Ward, OBPE, ext. 76111.

KCCC COMPUTER PROCUREMENT.....Vendor proposals for the KCCC competitively procured computer have been extended 14 days and are now due July 29. This RFP has five new contracting elements: a vendor deposit of \$1,000 for benchmark material; a requirement for remote terminal emulation; a new methodology for determining computer performance after acceptance; a new methodology for conversion which may become the basis for federal policy; and new privacy/security provisions. (Contact: Ray Long, ADS, ext. 76275)

TAPE-DISK MANAGEMENT REPORT.....The first Tape-Disk Management Report showing each agency's relative portion in managing computer resources was distributed to each agency on June 30. This report covering the January thru March 1977 quarter will be distributed to agencies on a regular quarterly basis. (Contact: Ray Long, ADS, ext. 76275)

FTS VOLUME.....USDA employees completed 2,959,922 calls on the FTS system in the second quarter of FY 1977. This was an increase of 88,568 over the first quarter and was 524,514 more than the second quarter of FY 1976. If this upward trend continues, increases in costs and billings by GSA can be expected. (Contact: Joseph Godbout, 00, ext. 75225)

FORMS AND PUBLICATIONS DISTRIBUTION TASK FORCE.....A task force of agency and staff office personnel is developing detailed implementation plans for action on the six recommendations developed in the original review. The areas to be covered include automation of warehouse inventory, consolidation of headquarters publications, reproduction of cut sheet forms in the field, improving, ordering and restocking procedures, regionalization of warehousing, and coordinated services for service center agencies. Specific recommendations for Management Council approval will be made in August. (Contact: Tom Foster, 00, ext. 78393)

NEW APPOINTMENTS.....

...FGIS - The nomination of Dr. L. E. Bartelt to be Administrator of the Federal Grain Inspection Service, has been confirmed by the Senate. Dr. Bartelt has been Assistant Director and Chief of the California State Division of Animal Industry, supervising animal, meat and dairy regulations. He has also been State Veterinarian in California. Dr. Bartelt began working for the California Department of Food and Agriculture after obtaining his doctorate in veterinary medicine in 1945 at Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.

...P&SA - Charles B. Jennings of Kansas City, Missouri, has been appointed Administrator of the Packers and Stockyards Administration. Since 1970, Mr. Jennings has been President of the Kansas City Stockyards Company. Prior to that he was President of the American Stockyards Association. Mr. Jennings first joined USDA in 1946 as a Marketing Specialist with the Packers and Stockyards Program. He is a graduate of Texas A&M with a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Husbandry. (Contact: Phyllis Mowery, OP, ext. 77131)

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE METRO SYSTEM?.....The Metro "Omnibus" will be coming to USDA with promotional material, maps, timetables, etc., and to answer questions about the area's mass transportation system. The red, white and blue bus will be parked on C Street, between the 4th and 5th wings, on July 28, from 11:00 to 2:30 p.m. An information flyer will be distributed to all employees the week of July 11.

FARM BILL.....The House is scheduled to begin consideration of the farm bill (HR 7171) on July 15. The Senate has passed a farm bill (S.275). (Contact: John Mottershead, OBPE, ext. 74654)

A-11 FALL CALL.....Draft A-11 instructions have been received from OMB for the Fall Call. ADS will issue instructions to agencies no later than July 28. (Contact: Joe Erb, ADS, ext. 72803)



FNS PILOT TEST OF ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER.....The Department of the Treasury has approved the pilot test proposal for Electronic Funds Transfer prepared by the Finance and Program Accounting Division. This pilot test was implemented on July 1, to transfer Child Nutrition Program funds electronically to the State of California.

Here's how it works. Telecopier equipment is used by the State to transmit request for funds to FNS Washington Headquarters. When the requests are received, the Finance and Program Accounting Division schedules funds for electronic transmission directly to the State's bank account using the Treasury Financial Communications System (TFCS).

The following major benefits are provided by this system:

- Federal funds will not be released to the State until the State has claims actually on hand and ready for payment.
- Payment by the State to primary recipient organizations (e.g., school districts) will be made within 24 hours of receipt of Federal funds.
- FNS control over the various Child Nutrition Programs will be improved because of the stringent preaudit standards established before Federal funds are released.
- Interest cost to the Federal Government should be substantially reduced because the State will be on a reimbursement rather than an advance basis

FNS is the first agency in the Federal Government to provide funding to state grantees using the TFCS System. (Contact: W. E. Mothorpe, FNS, ext. 76990)

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES.....Deadlines for submitting articles and publication dates for the remainder of 1977 are as follows:

| <u>Deadlines for Articles</u> | <u>Publication Date</u> |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| July 5                        | July 11                 |
| July 19                       | July 25                 |
| August 2                      | August 8                |
| August 16                     | August 22               |
| August 30                     | September 6             |
| September 13                  | September 19            |
| September 27                  | October 3               |
| October 11                    | October 17              |
| October 25                    | October 31              |
| November 8                    | November 14             |
| November 22                   | November 28             |
| December 6                    | December 12             |
| December 20                   | December 27             |

Please remember that this Newsletter is published for your benefit. The value to you is a direct function of the material submitted and printed. If you have information worth sharing, send it along. (Contact: Neil I. Van Vliet or Edwardene Rees, OBPE, ext. 76111)

1977 SAVINGS BOND CAMPAIGN.....The 1977 Campaign officially ended July 1. The report shows that we have made considerable progress in this year's Campaign effort. A total of 3,870 new participants have been signed to date, surpassing last year's total. Another 2,458 allotment increases have been reported by NFC. A number of individual agencies have shown significant progress in the campaign effort; we are grateful for the contributions they have made. The current Department percentage of participation is 71%. This is up from the 67% beginning percentage.

The final Campaign report will be issued by NFC at the end of pay period 14 on July 16. All agencies, especially the larger field organizations, are asked to insure that completed allotment cards (SF-1192) are submitted to NFC no later than July 8, so that the Department can receive official credit for the 1977 Campaign effort.

| <u>Agency</u> | <u>Total<br/>Number<br/>of New<br/>Allotments</u> | <u>Total<br/>Number of<br/>Allotment<br/>Increases</u> | <u>Total<br/>Number<br/>of<br/>Cancellations</u> | <u>Percent<br/>Participation</u> |                |
|---------------|---|--|--|----------------------------------|----------------|
|               |   |  |  | <u>Beginning</u>                 | <u>Current</u> |
| OALJ          | 1   | 0  | 0  | 41                               | 47             |
| AMS           | 86  | 68   | 10   | 75                               | 77             |
| ARS           | 226   | 201  | 33   | 62                               | 64             |
| ASCS          | 180   | 170  | 9  | 67                               | 74             |
| APHIS         | 420   | 343  | 49   | 61                               | 63             |
| OA            | 29  | 30   | 4  | 67                               | 71             |
| ADS           | 20  | 34   | 2  | 57                               | 61             |
| COMM          | 17  | 4  | 0  | 45                               | 55             |
| CSRS          | 3   | 3  | 0  | 56                               | 59             |
| EMSC          | 22  | 16   | 0  | 61                               | 78             |
| ERS           | 64  | 77   | 5  | 60                               | 66             |
| OEO           | 8   | 2  | 0  | 50                               | 59             |
| ES            | 4   | 10   | 0  | 58                               | 60             |
| FCS           | 7   | 2  | 0  | 81                               | 90             |
| FmHA          | 387   | 155  | 20   | 88                               | 93             |
| FCIC          | 67  | 65   | 2  | 84                               | 95             |
| FGIS          | 178   | 23   | 4  | 33                               | 50             |
| FNS           | 311   | 234  | 12   | 71                               | 84             |
| FAS           | 43  | 14   | 0  | 54                               | 63             |
| FS            | 668   | 348  | 89   | 64                               | 66             |
| OGC           | 12  | 17   | 1  | 54                               | 57             |
| OGSM          | 6   | 10   | 0  | 68                               | 74             |
| OI            | 17  | 7  | 1  | 53                               | 57             |
| OMF           | 13  | 15   | 0  | 65                               | 74             |
| NAL           | 7   | 6  | 0  | 61                               | 66             |
| NFC           | 267   | 94   | 9  | 68                               | 97             |
| OO            | 28  | 12   | 0  | 62                               | 71             |
| P&SA          | 2   | 12   | 0  | 75                               | 75             |
| OP            | 12  | 6  | 1  | 49                               | 59             |
| RDS           | 7   | 4  | 0  | 53                               | 77             |
| REA           | 71  | 61   | 2  | 67                               | 77             |
| SEC           | 12  | 1  | 0  | 54                               | 70             |
| SCS           | 542   | 338  | 29   | 73                               | 77             |
| SRS           | 133   | 76   | 11   | 69                               | 80             |

USDA TOTAL 3,870                      2,458                      293                      67                      71

(Contact: Earl Hunigan, FNS, ext. 73388)